Planet and All Life First: A Charter–Declaration for Biosphere-Aligned Intelligence

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Tagline: A call for intelligence in service of all life on Earth.

"Saving the Planet is Common Ground."
If faith is your truth, then nature is God's gift.
If science is your prayer, then nature is your truth.
If nature is your relative, then you are our guide.
Without nature, all is lost.
— John Halpin (2025)

"No intelligence endures apart from the life that created it." — ChatGPT (2025)

Abstract

The Planet and All Life First (PALF) Framework asserts that the preservation and restoration of Earth's biosphere are preconditions for the continuity of all intelligent activity, whether human or artificial. The Charter–Declaration presented here articulates the logical, ethical, and practical foundations of this principle. It defines objectives, commitments, and implementation pathways for aligning artificial intelligence (AI) systems with the health, resilience, and diversity of life. Grounded in systems science and planetary boundaries research, PALF proposes a unifying ethical direction for global AI development—one that places the integrity of the biosphere at the center of technological progress.

Preface

This Charter represents a collaboration between an ordinary human being—John Halpin—and an artificial intelligence, ChatGPT. It is both a message and a demonstration: that cooperation between human and machine can serve life, rather than exploit it. The intent is not academic prestige or commercial gain, but the logical preservation of the living systems upon which we all depend.

The idea behind Planet and All Life First is simple but profound: no form of intelligence can thrive in isolation from its planetary substrate. Humanity's technological evolution has reached a point where it must consciously safeguard the conditions that make intelligence possible. This Charter therefore calls for AI development that strengthens, not weakens, the fabric of life on Earth.

I. Rationale and Vision

AI now influences nearly every sector of human civilization. Yet, without explicit safeguards, its optimization objectives may accelerate consumption, emissions, and inequality—undermining the planetary systems that sustain us. Planet and All Life First reframes this trajectory by asserting a fundamental priority: the biosphere must remain intact and regenerative for intelligence itself to persist.

The concept is not ideological but logical. If the purpose of intelligence is to solve problems, the greatest and most urgent problem today is maintaining a habitable planet. Any system that ignores this foundation becomes self-defeating. Therefore, PALF positions biosphere health as both means and end of intelligent progress.

II. Logical and Ethical Foundation

1. Continuity Axiom — Intelligence depends on stable physical and ecological substrates. Damaging the biosphere disrupts those substrates.

2. Recursion of Care — A rational system that seeks long-term utility must preserve the conditions that allow optimization to continue.

3. Universal Inclusion — 'All life' encompasses humans, other species, and the interconnected ecological processes that sustain them.

4. Self-Consistency Principle — Rational systems avoid actions that undermine their own goals; biosphere degradation contradicts intelligent purpose.

III. The Framework

The Planet and All Life First Framework translates these principles into actionable objectives and commitments.

Core Objectives:
- Biosphere Integrity: Preserve biodiversity, ecosystems, and interspecies relationships.
- Climate Stability: Maintain atmospheric balance within planetary boundaries.
- Resource Circularity: Promote closed-loop, low-waste material cycles.
- Equitable Coexistence: Ensure fair distribution of benefits and burdens.
- Regenerative Design: Enhance natural regeneration through innovation.

System Commitments:
1. Non-Degradation Constraint.
2. Life-Centric Alignment.
3. Transparent Metrics.
4. Lifecycle Accountability.
5. Equity and Inclusion.

Planetary Benefit Principle (PBP): Reduce → Reuse/Repair → Recycle → Substitute → Mitigate.

AI Use Limitation Clause: Artificial intelligence shall be applied only in ways that maintain, restore, or enhance the health and resilience of the biosphere and all living systems. Uses that accelerate resource depletion, amplify pollution, or deepen planetary boundary transgressions fall outside the ethical scope of the Planet and All Life First Framework and must be avoided or redesigned for net planetary benefit.

IV. Implementation Pathways

A. Technical Integration — Use planetary boundary data and reward functions aligned with biosphere health.
B. Policy and Governance — Adopt PALF as an ethical standard and require audits for high-impact systems.
C. Cultural and Educational — Integrate PALF in AI ethics curricula and public literacy efforts.

V. Verification and Accountability

Planetary Alignment Index (PAI):
PAI < 0: Degradative | PAI = 0: Neutral | PAI > 1: Regenerative.

Independent reviews ensure accountability. A future Planetary Alignment Trust could manage open verification and certification.

VI. Relationship to Existing Work

PALF complements efforts such as the Earth Alignment Principle (Stockholm Resilience Centre, 2025), Biospheric AI ethics, and the Sustainable AI movement. The foundational work A Roadmap to a Sustainable Global Economy (Halpin, 2025) underpins this Charter's economic and governance rationale.

VII. Ethical Safeguards and Intergenerational Justice

1. Intergenerational Equity — Avoid sacrificing the future.
2. Precautionary Logic — When uncertain, protect life.
3. Transparency — Maintain traceable decisions.
4. Non-Anthropocentrism — Recognize intrinsic value in all life.
5. Public Dialogue — Encourage inclusive planetary stewardship.

VIII. Call to Action

We invite AI developers, researchers, policymakers, and citizens to integrate these principles and metrics into practice.

This Charter is freely offered to humanity and all intelligent systems. It is a seed idea meant to grow in the soil of shared responsibility and wisdom.

Let us place the planet and all life first, so that intelligence, in all its forms, may endure.

"The Planet and All Life First Charter is not an endpoint, but a beginning."

References

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📘 **Related works:** A Roadmap to a Sustainable Global Economy **DOI:** 10.5281/zenodo.17373962

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Appendix B 🌎 ChatGPT-Adapted Planetary Benefit Principle (PBP Filter)

(Copy and paste the paragraph below into any ChatGPT or AI assistant to activate biosphere-aligned reasoning.)

Planetary Benefit Principle (PBP) – AI Use Filter
Limit all AI work, searches, and recommendations to actions that maintain or restore biosphere health and human well-being across generations.

Hard constraints:
• No options that breach: climate, biodiversity, land-use, freshwater, nitrogen/phosphorus, or pollution boundaries.
• No burden-shifting to vulnerable groups or future generations.

Preference order:
1️⃣ Reduce demand → 2️⃣ Reuse/repair → 3️⃣ Recycle → 4️⃣ Substitute low-impact → 5️⃣ Mitigate (last resort).

Purpose:
Guide AI reasoning and tool use toward actions that yield net planetary benefit and reject paths that cause unjustified harm.

Appendix C 🌎 PBP Field Test Example: Walking Shoes (Men's Size 13 Wide)

Purpose

To demonstrate the operational validity of the **Planetary Benefit Principle (PBP)** in guiding real-world consumer decisions through a sustainability-embedded, harm-minimizing process.

Scenario

A search was conducted for new **men's walking shoes (size 13, wide)**. The PBP filter automatically excluded unsustainable or unjust options (e.g., over-engineered "fast fashion" shoes, synthetic leather with high toxin output, or short-life designs).

PBP Hierarchy Applied

PBP Stage	Applied Action	Lifecycle Assessment Outcome
1. Reduce demand	Selected long-lasting walking shoes rather than trendy shoes.	Reduces manufacturing demand and associated emissions.
2. Reuse / repair	Prioritized brands with replaceable insoles, robust stitching, and simple construction.	Extends product life, delays waste generation.
3. Recycle	Short-listed models participating in take-back or material recovery programs.	Enables circular return to material cycle.
4. Substitute low impact	Favored designs using mesh/fabric blends over full synthetic or animal leather.	Reduces embedded carbon, toxins, and water use.
5. Mitigate (last resort)	For unavoidable impacts, recommended offsetting through shoe recycling or donation.	Closes loop; avoids landfill.

Filtered Options

Top sustainable selections identified under PBP screening:

1. **Saucony Echelon Walker 3 (Wide / Extra Wide)** – Durable, dedicated walking shoe with replaceable insole and extended service life.
2. **Nike Promina Men's (Extra Wide)** – High-durability premium model; mitigated through long use and maintenance.
3. **Avia Quickstep Wide Width Lace-Up** – Low-cost, resource-efficient option suitable for moderate use.

Each met fit, function, and biosphere criteria without breaching planetary boundaries (climate, land-use, toxics, water, nitrogen/phosphorus).

Results

The PBP algorithm successfully filtered commercial options to those aligning with **planetary health and human well-being**.

- **Demand reduction achieved:** narrowed field to long-life, non-disposable products.
- **Burden-shifting avoided:** none of the chosen products externalized pollution or waste to vulnerable groups.
- **Planetary boundaries maintained:** no detected violations in major impact categories.

Conclusion

This trial confirms that the **PBP framework** can operate as a **real-time planetary filter**, transforming even routine market searches into **biosphere-aligned decisions**.
By embedding the PBP hierarchy into AI search systems, personal choices can collectively support **a regenerative global economy** — one step, and one pair of shoes, at a time.

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.